

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 CPR-01 DHA-02
SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00
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R 031427Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4127
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINS, LY
SUBJ: LARG INDICATES ITS INTENTION TO SIGN VIENNA CONVENTION
ON DIPLOMATIC PROTECTION

REF: STATE 34147, TRIPOLI 246, 76 STATE 256207

1. DURING EMBASSY POLOFF VISIT TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OFFICE OF TREATIES AND LEGAL AFFAIRS MARCH 1,
EMBASSY OFFICER RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER LARG
INTENDED TO RATIFY THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON THE
PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES AGAINST INTERNA-
TIONALLY PROTECTED PERSONS INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC
AGENTS. OFFICE DIRECTOR MAHMUD HUSSAM AD-DIN BAKKUSH
INDICATED THAT LIBYA WOULD PRESENT ITS ARTICLES
OF RATIFICATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON
PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS TO THE U.N. IN APPROXIMATELY
THREE WEEKS.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED BAKKUSH FOR A CLARIFICATION
OF THE FEB. 18 RCC DECREE WHICH (TRIPOLI 246)
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RATIFIED THE VIENNA CONVENTION PERTAINING TO
"POLITICAL RELATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTS THEREOF."
BAKKUSH EXPLAINED THAT THE RCC'S DECISION RATIFIED
THOSE ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION PERTAINING TO
CITIZENSHIP OF INDIVIDUALS HAVING DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

3. IN COURSE OF GENERAL DISCUSSION EMBASSY OFFICER

RAISED QUESTION OF LIBYA'S POSITION CONCERNING A FUTURE MEPC. BAKKUSH REITERATED WELL-KNOWN LIBYAN OPPOSITION TO MEPC. BAKKUSH INDICATED THAT CONFERENCE WOULD NOT SOLVE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT EVEN IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED CREATING PALESTINIAN STATE OF GAZA STRIP AND WEST BANK, ALL PALESTINIANS IN EXILE WOULD NOT RETURN TO THESE AREAS BUT WOULD DEMAND THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN JERUSALEM AND HAIFA. HE SAID THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WOULD ONLY BE SOLVED "BY ALLOWING PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO ALL OF PALESTINE, AND THE EMIGRATION OF ALL JEWS WHO SETTLED IN ISRAEL AFTER 1947." EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED BAKKUSH WOULD LIBYA ACCEPT DECISION OF THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES IF THERE WERE A MEPC AND THEY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF COL. QADHAFI'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT "HE WILL NOT BE MORE PALESTINIAN THAN THE PALESTINIANS." BAKKUSH RESPONDED THAT THE OPINION HE EXPRESSED WAS HIS OWN BUT NEVERTHELESS HE BELIEVED IT WAS SHARED BY ALL ARABS, WHETHER THEY LIVE IN THE GULF OR LIBYA.

4. AFTER BAKKUSH STATED LITANY OF AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PALESTINE SITUATION AND MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED HIM HOW WOULD LIBYA SOLVE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IF SHE HAD THE CAPACITY TO DO SO. BAKKUSH CONFESSED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A SOLUTION. EMBASSY OFFICE RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS THE GREATEST PROBLEM FACING ALL PARTIES SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.
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EMBASSY OFFICER THANKED BAKKUSH FOR FRANK COMMENTS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD SUCCEED IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. BAKKUSH SIMPLY RESPONDED BY SAYING "LETS WAIT AND SEE."

COMMENT: BAKKUSH'S EXTREME POSITION ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE U.S. AND ISRAEL IS UNDOUBTEDLY DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE LOSS OF HIS WIFE IN THE LIBYAN AIRLINE SHOT DOWN BY ISRAEL IN THE SIANI. BAKKUSH BLAMES HIS PERSONAL TRAGIC LOSS ON BOTH ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. YET, HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS MEPC MAY NOT BE QADHAFI'S GIVEN THE COLONEL'S STATEMENT REF. PALESTINIANS.
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Message Attributes

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